

19 March 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: D/ONE

SUBJECT: Cambodia

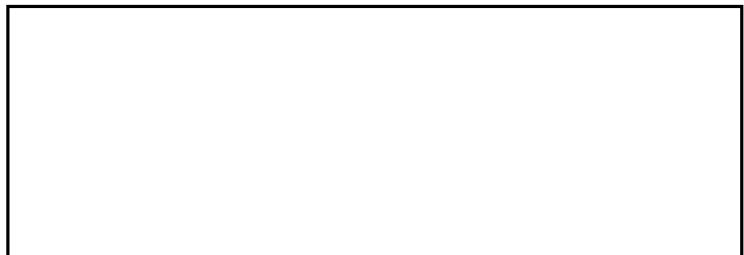
1. At the moment, the future posture of the Lon Nol government towards the Communists and the US is not known. The logic of its action against Sihanouk and the continuing incidents of clashes with VC/NVA forces suggest, however, that this posture will be one of continuing hostility, not benevolent or cooperative neutrality toward the Communists. Such hostility could range in its expression from nothing more than continuing protests directed at the presence of Communist troops in Cambodia through minor harassment of those troops, embargos on the movement of food, arms, and other supplies to the VC/NVA from Cambodia, to full military involvement in the Vietnam war.

2. Even the more limited anti-Communist actions are likely to have important implications for the Communists and for the US. For example, whatever neutral pose the new Cambodian regime adopts, it is likely to be casting about for new sources of arms, trade, and economic aid to replace that which has been supplied since 1963 by the USSR and Communist China. In anticipation of feelers from Phom Penh for assistance, we should

have ready for our policy makers an assessment of what Cambodia's requirements are likely to be, their alternatives for meeting these requirements, and the consequences of a failure to do so.

3. We also need to do a good deal more detailed and close examination of the impact on the VC/NVA of various degrees of Cambodian harassment, denial, and military pressure. We have written off the FARK as an inefficient force but this is perhaps an over simplification and does not take into account the disruptive effect on the VC/NVA of particular Cambodian actions.

4. In brief, it seems to me that there is an urgent requirement for a paper -- either a CIA Memo or a SNIE -- that would provide the policy maker with some of the facts and analysis relevant to decisions in Washington which may be required over the next few weeks as Cambodia's new posture takes form and shape.



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